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SOME EARS AND TYPES OF MEN[1]

By ROBERT BENNETT BEAN

Materials

1,325 American whites,
2,039 American negroes,
73 American Indians.
171 Alaskan Eskimos.
94 Manila Filipinos.

The present study is a continuation of those made previously on the external ear and physical form of man, and it is more detailed and specific than former studies. It corroborates them in general and in particular, and adds racial distinctions to type differences.

The most important result is the segregation of the Hyper-, Meso-, and Hypo- types from each group, both by the ear form and by other anatomical characteristics. The other result of importance is the differentiation of the races by their ear form. Incidentally skin lines were discovered on all ears, lines that represent the folded over skin tip of the ear, the skin tip which should overlie the cartilaginous tip (Darwin's tubercle) but does not always do so.

The segregation of the types, Hyper-, Meso-, and Hypo-, is accomplished by determining for each ear whether the helix is prominent or not, whether the anthelix is depressed or not, whether the lower helix and lobule turn towards the head or away from it, and whether the tragus and antitragus are everted or depressed. After having determined to which type the ear belongs, then the cephalic index, nasal index, and facial index, of the individual are calculated. The results are found below.

Type Differences

Hyper-.—In this type of ear the helix is depressed toward the head, the anthelix is prominent—projects beyond the helix—the lower helix and lobule turn toward the head, and the tragus and antitragus are everted and prominent—project beyond their surroundings. The nasal index, facial index, and cephalic index indicate that the type of individual associated with this type of ear has a long, narrow nose, a long, narrow face, and a long narrow head as a rule.

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[1] Presented first at the New Orleans Academy of Sciences in 1914, read by title before the Anthropological Association at Philadelphia.

Hypo-.—In this type of ear the helix is prominent, the anthelix depressed, the lower helix and lobule turn out from the head in the form of a shelf, and the tragus and antitragus are depressed below their surroundings. The nasal index, facial index, and cephalic index indicate that the type of individual associated with this type of ear has as a rule a short, broad nose, a short broad face, and a short broad head.

Meso-.—In this type of ear the helix and anthelix are both prominent, thus forming a double roll near the dorsal margin of the ear, the lower helix and lobule turn out from the head in the form of a shelf, but not to the same extent as in the Hypo- ear, and the shelf, instead of being horizontal, has a gentle slope forward or may be precipitous, and finally the tragus and antitragus have an intermediate position, are neither prominent nor depressed. The nasal index, facial index, and cephalic index indicate that the type of individual associated with this type of ear has a nose, face, and head of intermediate form between the Hyper- and the Hypo-, although the face is larger than either of the two.

Each of the three types may be subdivided into onto and phylo forms, the phylo, the primordial form, and the onto, the derived form. The Hyper-onto-morph, the Meso-onto-morph, and very rarely the Hypo-onto-morph are European, or white, types; whereas the Hypo-phylo-morph, the Meso-phylo-morph, and rarely the Hyper-phylo-morph are types of the negroes, Indians, Eskimos, Filipinos, and other primitive peoples.

At birth the white child is a Hypo-phylo-morph, and as the child develops it passes consecutively through the stages of the Hypo-onto-morph, Meso-phylo-morph, Meso-onto-morph, Hyper-phylo-morph and Hyper-onto-morph, unless development stops at or between one or the other of the types.

There is little doubt that the Hyper-onto-morph is the end product of a hyperactive thyroid gland, the result of rapid differentiation, with slight growth, resulting in a small, active, nervous individual. The Hypo-phylo-morph is probably the end product of great thymus activity, resulting in a more or less complete retention of the infantile condition, whereas the Meso-phylo-morph has great activity of the gonads. The other types are variants of the three mentioned, composites, mixtures, blends or mosaics.

RACE DIFFERENCES

The race differences are of two kinds, measured and descriptive. Only the racial differences of the ear will be considered here.

Measured differences: These are divided into differences in the living and differences in the dead. The ears of only three groups of dead people were measured, American negroes, American whites and Filipinos. By measurements of the total ear length, total ear breadth, ear base, true ear length (Schwalbe), concha length and concha breadth, it is found that the negro ear is short and broad, the white ear is long and narrow, and the Filipino ear is relatively longer and narrower than the white ear.

The ear length and the index of the ear of both the living and the dead are as follows:

DEAD

Group	Ear Length		Ear Index	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
American white	64.18	——	58.0	——
American negro	58.58	58.32	64.0	60.8
Manila Filipino	58.80	57.43	56.8	57.5
LIVING				
New Orleans student	63.9	——	57.4	——
American "old" white[1]	66.9	61.3	55.9	56.0
American Indian	72.3	——	52.6	——
Alaskan Eskimo	73.8	67.1	54.4	53.0
American negro	60.8	58.0	60.9	60.2

Fœtuses, new-born and young infants, male and female:

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[1] "Old" whites are those who have been in this country for three generations or more.

Ear index, white	68.8
Ear index, negro	64.5

No other measurements are given because racial differences are more pronounced in the ear length and the ear index. The Indian and Eskimo have long ears, the negro and Filipino have short ears and the ears of the white people are intermediate. This accounts in part for the fact that the ear index of the negro is high, that of the Indian and Eskimo is low, and that of the white is intermediate, but it does not account for the low index of the Filipino. The reason for this is that the ear of the Filipino is short and also narrow, it is a small ear. The negro ear is not only short, but it is also broad.

The ear increases its size with age, to seventy years or later, but the increase in length is greater than that in breadth, therefore the index decreases with age.

Descriptive Differences.—The true negro ear is small, almost flat, close to the head, and the helix is broad as if much folded over. The upper part of the helix is almost horizontal and passes directly backward from the upper end of the ear base to join the vertical dorsal portion of the helix at a right or acute angle in a rounded point at the upper outer extremity of the ear. The superior and dorsal borders of the helix are separated by a depression above Darwin's tubercle, where the helix is thin or absent. The dorsal border passes downward and turns forward at an obtuse angle to form the inferior border of the ear which enters the cheek almost at right angles, with no lobule or a very small one which is nearly flat. The Satyr tubercle is well marked and Darwin's tubercle is small or absent. The skin lines formed by the overfolding of the helix are less distinct on the negro ear than on the white, and they usually converge on the negro ear over Darwin's tubercle. The true negro ear is not seen in great numbers among American negroes. It occurred 245 times among 1,478 New Orleans negroes (16.6 per cent.), men, women and children, chiefly of the laboring classes. There is another form of ear that is found frequently among the negroes, but it is also found not rarely among other peoples, even among the whites, and I have called this the involuted ear, because it seems to represent an advanced stage in retrograde development and evolution. It has a gnarled appearance, as if the ear had been burned around the border and had contracted irregularly in healing, leaving a thick, irregular helix. This ear type was at first thought to be due to accidental causes, but the presence of the skin lines of the ear tip in regular order proved the ear to be a true type. It was found 601 times in 1,478 New Orleans Negroes (40.7 per cent.) and 52 times among 857 New Orleans whites (6.1 per cent.).

The details of the ears of the negro and white are different as follows: The negro ears are glabrous, the white ears are hirsute; the Satyr tubercle is large in the negro ear, small in the white; Darwin's tubercle is more difficult to find in the negro ear than in the white; the skin lines converge about Darwin's tubercle in the negro ear, and between Darwin's tubercle and the Satyr tubercle in the white; the helix is broad in the negro ear, narrow in the white; the anthelix is more prominent in the white ear than in the negro; the posterior auricular sulcus is deeper in the negro ear than in the white, and in the negro ear the sulcus dips into the concha, whereas in the white it turns out over the helix or lobule.

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